

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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HYDRO ELECTRONIC DEVICES, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 20-cv-1676-bhl

HOMELAND COMPONENTS, INC.,

Defendant.

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**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

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Based on the stipulation of the parties and the representations set forth therein, the Court finds that exchange of sensitive information between or among the parties and/or third parties other than in accordance with this Order may cause unnecessary damage and injury to the parties or to others. The Court further finds that the terms of this Order are fair and just and that good cause has been shown for entry of a protective order governing the confidentiality of documents produced in discovery, answers to interrogatories, answers to requests for admission, and deposition testimony.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT**, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c)(1):

**A. DESIGNATION OF CONFIDENTIAL OR ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY INFORMATION.**

Designation of information under this Order must be made by placing or affixing on the document or material, in a manner that will not interfere with its legibility, the words "CONFIDENTIAL" or "ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY."

- (1) One who produces information, documents, or other material may designate them as "CONFIDENTIAL" when the person in good faith believes they contain trade secrets or nonpublic confidential technical, commercial, financial, personal, or business information.
- (2) One who produces information, documents, or other material may designate them as "ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" when the person in good

faith believes that they contain particularly sensitive trade secrets or other nonpublic confidential technical, commercial, financial, personal, or business information that requires protection beyond that afforded by a CONFIDENTIAL designation.

- (3) Except for information, documents, or other materials produced for inspection at the party's facilities, the designation of confidential information as CONFIDENTIAL or ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY must be made prior to, or contemporaneously with, their production or disclosure. In the event that information, documents or other materials are produced for inspection at the party's facilities, such information, documents, or other materials may be produced for inspection before being marked confidential. Once specific information, documents, or other materials have been designated for copying, any information, documents, or other materials containing confidential information will then be marked confidential after copying but before delivery to the party who inspected and designated them. There will be no waiver of confidentiality by the inspection of confidential information, documents, or other materials before they are copied and marked confidential pursuant to this procedure.
- (4) Portions of depositions of a party's present and former officers, directors, employees, agents, experts, and representatives will be deemed confidential only if designated as such when the deposition is taken or within 30 days of receipt of the deposition transcript.
- (5) If a party inadvertently produces information, documents, or other material containing CONFIDENTIAL or ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY information without marking or labeling it as such, the information, documents, or other material shall not lose its protected status through such production and the parties shall take all steps reasonably required to assure its continued confidentiality if the producing party provides written notice to the receiving party within 10 days of the discovery of the inadvertent production, identifying the information, document or other material in question and of the corrected confidential designation.

## **B. DISCLOSURE AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.**

Information, documents, or other material designated as CONFIDENTIAL or ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY under this Order must not be used or disclosed by the parties or counsel for the parties or any persons identified in subparagraphs B(1) and (2) below for any purposes whatsoever other than preparing for and conducting the litigation in which the information, documents, or other material were disclosed (including appeals).

- (1) **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.** The parties and counsel for the parties must not disclose or permit the disclosure of any information, documents or other material designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" by any other party or third party under this Order, except that disclosures may be made in the following circumstances:
  - a. Disclosure may be made to counsel, and employees and independent contractors of counsel (e.g. litigation support vendors) for the parties who have direct functional responsibility for the preparation and trial of the lawsuit. Any such employee or independent contractor to whom counsel for the parties makes a disclosure must be advised of, and become subject to, the provisions of this Order requiring that the information, documents, or other material be held in confidence.
  - b. Disclosure may be made only to officers, directors, and/or employees of a party required in good faith to provide assistance in the conduct of the litigation in which the information was disclosed.
  - c. Disclosure may be made to court reporters engaged for depositions and those persons, if any, specifically engaged for the limited purpose of making and handling copies of documents or other material. Before disclosure to any such court reporter or person engaged in making copies, such reporter or person must agree to be bound by the terms of this Order.
  - d. Disclosure may be made to consultants, investigators, or experts (collectively "experts") employed by the parties or counsel for the parties to assist in the preparation and trial of the lawsuit. Before disclosure to any expert, the expert must be informed of and agree to

be subject to the provisions of this Order requiring that the information, documents, or other material be held in confidence.

- e. Disclosure may be made to the Court and the Court's staff.
- f. Disclosure may be made to persons already in lawful and legitimate possession of such CONFIDENTIAL information.
- g. The list of persons to whom CONFIDENTIAL information may be disclosed identified in this Paragraph B(1) may be expanded or modified by mutual agreement in writing by counsel for the parties to this action without the necessity of modifying this Stipulation and Protective Order.

(2) ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY INFORMATION. Counsel for the parties must not disclose or permit the disclosure of any information, documents, or other material designated as "ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" by any other party or third party under this Order to any other person or entity, except that disclosures may be made in the following circumstances:

- a. Disclosure may be made to counsel—and employees and independent contractors (e.g. litigation support vendors) of outside counsel—for the parties who have direct functional responsibility for the preparation and trial of the lawsuit. Any such employee or independent contractor to whom outside counsel for the parties makes a disclosure must be advised of, and become subject to, the provisions of this Order requiring that the information, documents, or other material be held in confidence.
- b. Disclosure may be made to court reporters engaged for depositions and those persons, if any, specifically engaged for the limited purpose of making and handling copies of documents or other material. Before disclosure to any such court reporter or person engaged in making copies, such reporter or person must agree to be bound by the terms of this Order.
- c. Disclosure may be made to independent consultants or experts and their staff who are not employed by or affiliated with a party and who

are retained either as consultants or expert witnesses for the purpose of this litigation. Before disclosure to any independent consultant or expert, the consultant or expert must be informed of and agree in writing to be subject to the provisions of this Order requiring that the information, documents, or other material be held in confidence.

- d. Disclosure may be made to the Court and the Court's staff.
- e. Disclosure may be made to persons already in lawful and legitimate possession of such ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY information.
- f. The list of persons to whom ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY information may be disclosed identified in this Paragraph (B)(2) may be expanded or modified by mutual agreement in writing by counsel for the parties to this action without the necessity of modifying this Stipulation and Protective Order.

#### **C. MAINTENANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY.**

Except as provided under paragraph B, counsel for the parties must keep all information, documents, or other material designated as CONFIDENTIAL or ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY that are received under this Order secure within their exclusive possession and must place such information, documents, or other material in a secure area.

- (1) All copies, duplicates, extracts, summaries, or descriptions (hereinafter referred to collectively as "copies") of information, documents, or other material designated as confidential under this Order, or any portion thereof, must be immediately affixed with the words "CONFIDENTIAL" or "ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" if not already containing that designation.
- (2) To the extent that any answers to interrogatories, transcripts of depositions, responses to requests for admissions, or any other papers filed or to be filed with the Court reveal or tend to reveal information claimed to be confidential, the filing party must seek to file these papers or any portion thereof under seal. If a Court filing contains information, documents, or other materials that were designated "CONFIDENTIAL" or "ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" by a third party, the party making the

filing shall provide notice of the filing to the third party prior to filing to provide the third party a reasonable opportunity to object or otherwise respond.

**D. CHALLENGES TO CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATION.**

A party may challenge the designation of confidentiality by motion. The designating party bears the burden of proving that the information, documents, or other material at issue are properly designated as confidential. The Court may award the party prevailing on any such motion actual attorney fees and costs attributable to the motion.

**E. CONCLUSION OF LITIGATION.**

Within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the litigation, a party may request that all information, documents, or other material not filed with the Court or received into evidence and designated as CONFIDENTIAL or ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY under this Order must be returned to the originating party or destroyed, unless otherwise provided by law. Notwithstanding the requirements of this paragraph, outside counsel for each party may retain a complete set of all documents, subject to all other restrictions of this Order.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin on January 8, 2021.

s/ Brett H. Ludwig  
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BRETT H. LUDWIG  
United States District Judge